



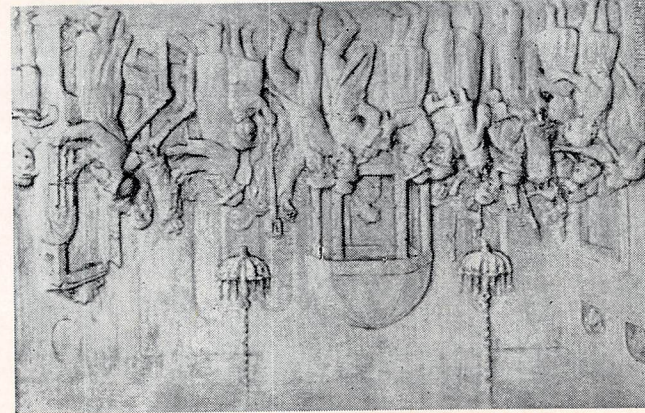
A 19th century wood cut from Poland used on a Sukkah wall, proclaiming "Rejoice and be happy during Simkhat Torah". The bottom figures portray feasting, drinking, dancing, lulav and Torah procession. (Courtesy—Jewish Museum, New York. Foto Frank Darmstaedter).

until the leaves drop. Prayers are recited that the coming year may be supplied with the proper amount of rain and water; this is a vestige of an agricultural period. One verse of the prayer for rain and dew reads: "Dew, precious dew, that we our harvest reap. And guard our fatted flocks and herds from leanneas. Behold our people follow Thee like sheep. And look to Thee to give the earth her greenness. The Sefardim, during the "Khol Mo'ed," the semi-holiday days between the first and last days of the eight day celebration, hold a candle procession in commemoration of the pilgrimage during the T'emplar Era. The eight day of Sukkoth is called "Shemini Atzereth—Eight Day of Convocation."

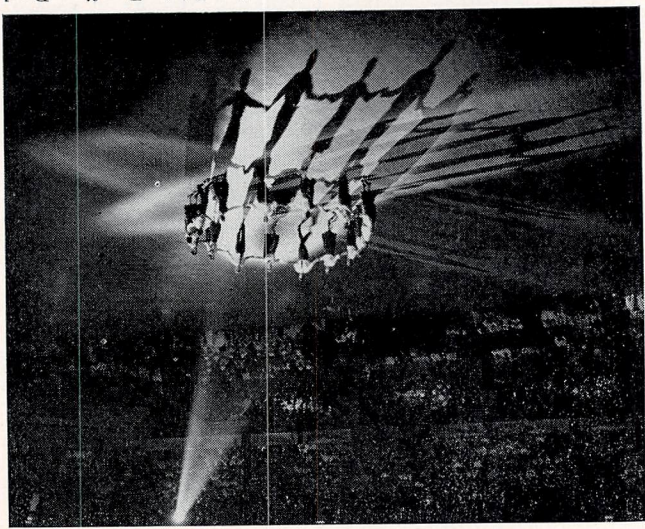
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Following the eight days of Sukkoth is the merry feast day in honor of the Torah (Law-Old Testament), called "Simkhat Torah—The Joy of the Torah." It marks the completion of the reading of the entire Pentateuch; a certain portion having been read each preceding Saturday. The Hassidim (A East-European denomination) particularly celebrate this festivity with the greatest ado. The holy scrolls of the Law are carried in procession within the synagog seven times in honor of the major patriarchs. Abraham, Issac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and David. Each time the procession reaches the starting point, near the Tabernacle which holds the scrolls, singing and more dancing takes place. A new group of people is called upon to be honored with the carrying of the scrolls in the procession, and so on until the seven circuits are completed. In wealthier synagoges, as many a dozen or more Sifrey Torah (scrolls) are carried. But the greatest "Joy of the Torah" (Simkhat Torah) without any inhibitions, is displayed in Hassidic synagoges which are even found in all major cities of the U.S. The Rebbe and the Hassidim sing and dance either in circles or with a special solo decoration by one carrying a Sef'er Torah, or by the Rebbe himself. Children carry little flags topped by shiny apples, and these apples are often topped by a little scroll and kiss the fingers which touched it.

During the very same holiday on which the reading of the Torah was completed, the reading is joyously commenced once again with Genesis, installing a new year's cycle of cantillation.



A Terra-cotta relief portrays a Simkhat Torah procession in a Hassidic synagog.



Stockton's Polka Y Dots doing the Irish Bonfire Reel at the San Francisco Civic Auditorium in April during the Dance Festival. (Foto Ace Smith).

XMAS AT CHICAGO'S MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

The fabulous museum of Science and Industry in Chicago's lovely Jackson Park, annually dedicates the period commencing with the Thanksgiving Day week-end until New Year, to Christmas and its traditions. Each ethnic group of Chicago decorates a huge fir in the traditional manner which are on display in the main lofty lobby. During the first two weeks of this period programs are presented daily with nationality groups taking over a day, or sharing with another, to portray their Christmas customs and folk songs will be the gist of the program.

The Lithuanian Christmas tree is an everlasting wonder. It is always widely written up in the American press and is the most photographed tree. Its unique geometric straw decorations is of utmost admiration and curiosity. In connection with the Lithuanian tree and to quench the curiosity of all the admirers, the girls of Maria Art Class will demonstrate the art of making these unique decorations. There will also be a weaving demonstration of Justos (Lithuanian costume belts) as well as a generous exhibit of Justos and other woven items of which Mrs. Jamekiss will be in charge. We urge our readers to see it.



VLTIS VILTIS NAVAL DANCERS

This is a part of the VILTIS dancers and helping hands with VILTIS. But, alas, the Navy was "disbanded". Art Noble PH3 (at left) (home - San Francisco) is at present stationed in Washington, D.C. Roy Hinton PN3 USN (St. Elmo, Ill.) is still around. Beverly Grozinger, in Czech costume, and family, hosted the boys during the Statewide festival. Clinton Taylor YN2 USN (Los Angeles) has since been discharged, as was Wayne Kelly AL3 USN (Granite City, Ill.). That's the sad part of working with the Navy. Rehearsals are tough as it is difficult to get them all at once for complete rehearsals. "Duty" constantly interferes. And after much work is put into them then they are either discharged or shipped away. Nonetheless, it was a pleasure to work with them and to know that something better than frequenting taverns is offered to them. These boys, tho, are not the tavern type, but clean cut lads of the highest degree of behavior almost matchless. Knowing that such young men exist compensates all else. The boys are shown in Mallorcan (Catalan Islands) costumes. Art Noble is our photographer par excellence, and to him I'm deeply indebted for many photographs appearing in VILTIS.

Clint was rushed for an emergency operation on October 7th when a blood clot developed over his appendix due to internal bleeding of a torn ligament acquired during a gym exercise. We are happy to inform that he has been discharged since and he is back now to his studies minus appendix and complications.



NEWS ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS

.. Len Mickas, artist of our cover design and ATEJTIS folk dancer of Chicago, met up with hard luck while participating at the Annual International House Folk Festival of the U. of C. Chicago Hoods broke into his car cleaning him out of his clothes and money. Lenny, who is also known and loved by many San Franciscans, is a student of the famous Chicago Art Institute and will be teaching art in the Chicago schools. He is also greatly interested in the Sokol movement and belongs to a Czech group on whose programs he ably performed.

The Chirion's Group of Cleveland danced and sang their Lithuanian renderings over a national hook-up of color TV... Elma McFarland is having a class in Music Appreciation Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 PM in room 110, at the Glendale College... At the pre-wedding party for Bob and Viola Parkhurst the folkdancers of Seattle, all Gentiles including the newlyweds, did a Jewish wedding ritual in their

honor; included were the Barloger Tantz, the smashing of the wine glass by Bob and the shouting of Mazal Tov with a Yiddish accent. Mazal Tov shall it be... Mrs. Josephine Dauzardis is now in the midst of preparing a cook book of Lithuanian foods, delicacies and drinks. It will be printed in English. Her son Fabian has just returned from Okinawa. After a week home the Lieutenant reported for duty to Washington.

Ed Williams, Ateitis folk dancer, was discharged and returned to the dance group in Chicago, brother Al, however, who is also in the service, developed cancer of the skin and is now hospitalized in Texas. This is most grievous news to all of us and we wish him a speedy recovery. Sister Fran, who is also an active member of Ateitis, is a graduate nurse and a beautiful one... Dean Linscott was transferred to California. Happy Days... Lutas Grinius was sent to Maryland and further away from home, wife and new child. Varge, varge!

Murray Sherman opened his 9th season instructing folk dancing at Washington Irving High School, New York. Sessions open each Saturday at 8 P.M.... Sid Pierre opened a new folk dance group at the Vincent Recreation Center in Santa Monica. They meet every Thursday at 7:30... Chuck Hurok of Oak Park, Chicago, and John Gardner of Green Bay, Wis., are publishing new pamphlets for their respective areas and are doing an excellent job.

Twenty five squares performed Larussee Quadrille and Capri Square at the Minneapolis Aquadrenal of July 23rd at the Parade Grounds... Jeannette (Babe) Mucha of Chicago, won for a second time the trophy awarded to a "Polka Queen". She simply is good... Al and Doris Lulich and Louise Sasek, members of the Kolo Club of Cleveland, Ohio, vacationed in San Francisco, San Diego and other Pacific points during the second half of September... Dorothy Passarelli of Schenectady, N. Y., is now a school marm in Linda Vista, San Diego, while Tina Roach of Bethel, Conn. is now teaching music at the Jefferson School in Santa Clara, Cal.... John and Chris Mitchell moved from Chicago to Berkeley, Cal., where John is teaching at the Lazaar School for retarded children. During the past summer they were in charge of the folk dancing at the Circle Pines camp in Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Sol Fisher of Tuscon, Arizona, now temporarily in Denver, have received many praiseworthy letters from the "high-ups" for their among the men in the uniform for their folk dance instructions and demonstrations.

Paul Dunsing is now holding a full time position with Chicago's George Williams (YMCA) College where he will be the folk dance instructor... Carl and Alice Nugent of Denver, attended a wedding of Carl's brother in Cleveland and then went to Florida for vacation... Emily and Sophie Czernek of Chicago, were again on their annual peregrination this time to Cuba, while Sister Mary flew to Europe. Dorothy Wesson from Minneapolis returned from months in Europe. She saw Morry and Nancy Gelman, spent some time with Dick Crum in Jugoslavia and came back with many dolls... Stan Leszynski from Seattle, Wash., toured Boston, New York and Chicago and came back with many new ideas (are they good ones?... Lisa and Walter Lekis finally settled down (temporarily?) in Gainesville, Fla... Brain Child Haltdan Baadsgaard from Minneapolis who won scholarship after scholarship for study in Zurich, Switzerland, is returning this coming February Cum Laude... LeVerne and David Weaver with Angelina Pan, all of San Diego, toured Eastern U.S. and Canada.

Wilma Graesch of Fresno, Cal., spent her vacation in Hawaii... Al Pill of Los Angeles spent several weeks in central Mexico buying sombreros and costumes and came back all spent, financially and physically... Roy Hinton, PM3, USN, spent a month's leave home in St. Elmo, Ill....